# Affiliated Ute Citizens Law Suit

LETTER TO EDITOR

Rumors circulating in the Uintah Basin concerning the case of Affiliated Ute Citizens of the State of Utah vs. United States, which was argued to the United States Supreme Court on October 18, 1971, are not correct, according to the officers of the Affiliated Ute Citizens. The case is not against the Ute Indian Tribe or the full-blood members of the Tribe in any sense. Statements widely circulated to that effect have no foundation in fact.

The Affiliated Ute Citizens case is against the United States of America, First Security Bank and two of its officers. It is alleged that the United States improperly administered the rights of the terminated Utes under the Ute Termination Act adopted in 1954 and further alleged that First Security Bank and its officers were guilty of improper practices in connection with the sale of stock in the Ute Distribution Corporation. No property owned by the Tribe, or any of its members, is involved in the case and the case does not critize, either directly or indirectly, the Ute Indian Tribe or any action taken by its tribal council, officers, or individual members.

The Ute Distribution Corporation, which has its headquarters in Roosevelt, could be effected in an indirect way by the Affiliated Utes case to the extent that they are the authorized representatives having power to act jointly with the Tribal Business Committee in the leasing of reservation mineral lands. If the Supreme Court were to decide that issue in favor of the Affiliated Utes, no mixed blood shareholder of the Ute Distribution Corporation would suffer any loss, however, because his right to a share in mineral royalties would then be paid to him directly, rather than through Ute Distribution Corporation. In fact, mixed-blood shareholders in Ute Distribution Corporation would benefit by the success of the Affiliated Utes case because some administrative costs necessary in the operation of UDC would be eliminated.

The Affiliated Ute Citizens were represented in oral arguments before the United States Supreme Court by Parker M. Nielson of Salt Lake City, Utah. First Security Bank and its officers were represented by Marvin Bertoch of Salt Lake City, Utah and the United States was represented by Deputy Solicitor General Raymond Randolph. The Ute Indian Tribe and Ute Distribution Corporation filed briefs with the United States Supreme Court taking a position adverse to the Affiliated Ute Citizens on certain legal points. The Securities and Exchange Commission, Native American Rights Fund and the Association on American Indian Affairs, Inc., each filed briefs supporting the Affiliated Utes. The case is now submitted and waiting decision but it is impossible to predict when an opinion will be rendered by the United States Supreme Court.

Sincerely,
Affiliated Ute Citizens of the State of Utah
Preston Allen, president
Ezilda Hendricks, vice president
Anita Reyos, secretary
Joseph Arthur Workman, treasurer
Elmer Hackford, director